



**Testimony
Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Town of Roxbury
Labor & Public Employees Committee
January 29, 2015**

- **HB-5070, AN ACT CONCERNING TIMETABLES FOR MUNICIPAL BINDING ARBITRATION**
- **HB-5211, AN ACT CONCERNING UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES AND ARBITRATION DECISION TIMELINES**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in **support of HB-5070 and HB-5211** which would help address concerns and costs associated with delays in rendering arbitration decisions.

HB-5070 is aimed at ensuring that negotiations in mandatory binding arbitration are completed within a reasonable timeframe. Under the current process, parties may modify, defer or waive deadlines which delays decisions. As a result, we don't always have accurate information about costs in crafting our local budget. The deadlines under the Municipal Employees Relations Act (MERA) should be updated to mirror the deadlines contained in the Teachers Negotiation Act.

HB-5211 would also assist in better managing municipal budgets by requiring decisions in the arbitration of unfair labor practices to be issued not later than sixty days after the post-hearing briefs are filed. This is similar to other provisions governing arbitration and is a reasonable way to improve the local grievance arbitration process.